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Message Text

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14-11
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-09 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MMS-01 /083 W
---------- 101900
R 111405Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2315
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
DET 4 AFSCF MAHE ISLAND SEYCHELLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 2976

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, SE, UK
SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES: VIEWS OF SDP PARTICIPANTS ON CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

REF: A. NAIROBI 1896 (NOTAL) B. LONDON 4933 (NOTAL)

1. IN EARLY APRIL SEYCHELLES' CHIEF MINISTER MANCHAM, MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES JOUBERT AND OTHER SEYCHELLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) PARTICIPANTS AT MARCH 1975 LONDON CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE STOPPED OVER IN NAIROBI AND GAVE FOLLOWING VIEWS ON IMPLICATIONS OF CONFERENCE ON SEYCHELLES' POLITICAL SCENE:
A. MAJOR CHANGES UNDER INTERIM CONSTITUTION - AS NOTED REFTEL B, PRESENT 15 MEMBER LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WILL BE EXPANDED TO 25 WITH EACH OF TWO PARTIES NOMINATING 5 NEW MEMBERS. CABINET WILL ALSO BE ENLARGED TO MAXIMUM OF 12 PORTFOLIOS (MINISTERS AND
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ASSISTANT MINISTERS) WHO WILL BE APPOINTED BY AND RESPONSIBLE TO CHIEF MINISTER MANCHAM (MANCHAM HIMSELF WILL BECOME PRIME MINISTER). UNTIL INDEPENDENCE BRITISH GOVERNOR WILL RETAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE, INTERNAL SECURITY AND

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PUBLIC INFORMATION. INTERIM CONSTITUTION, WHICH AWAITS
PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL, EXPECTED TO COME INTO FORCE IN LATE
SUMMER 1975.
B. JANUARY 1976 CONFERENCE AND INDEPENDENCE - SECOND CON-
STITUTIONAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN JANUARY 1976.
ACCORDING JOUBERT, QTE EIGHTY PERCENT OF FINAL CONSTITUTION
ALREADY DECIDED UPON UNQTE. PROBABLE DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE
WILL BE SOMETIME IN LATE JUNE 1976.
C. DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS - ENLARGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT WILL
BE LARGELY ACCOMPLISHED BY SUB-DIVIDING PRESENT MINISTRIES OF
NATURAL RESOURCES, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WORKS AND BY CREATING NEW
PORTFOLIOS FOR FINANCE AND POSSIBLY TOURISM. JOUBERT EXPECTS
ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS TO INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE
POLITICAL WRANGLING WITHIN SDP. RE FOUR PORTFOLIOS MANCHAM HAS
AGREED TO OFFER OPPOSITION SPUP, CHIEF MINISTER SAID ONLY THAT
HE PLANS TO GIVE SPUP PRESIDENT RENE AN IMPORTANT JOB QTE TO KEEP
HIM BUSY UNQTE.
D. NEW ELECTIONS- UKG TURNED DOWN SPUP CALL FOR FRESH, PRE-
INDEPENDENCE ELECTIONS BUT AGREED TO SEND BRITISH TEAM TO
SEYCHELLES WHICH WILL PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ELECTORAL REFORM
FOR FUTURE (I.E. POST-INDEPENDENCE) ELECTIONS.
E. BIOT - QUESTION OF RETURN TO SEYCHELLES OF ALDABRA, DESROCHES
AND FARQUHAR (ISLAND GROUP DETACHED FROM SEYCHELLES IN 1965 TO
FORM BIOT ALONG WITH DIEGO GARCIA) ARISE ONLY DURING SPEECHES AT
OPENING AND CLOSING SESSIONS OF CONFERENCE. JOUBERT EXPECTS
SEYCHELLES WILL PROCEED TO INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT RETURN OF
ISLANDS THOUGH ISSUE LIKELY TO ARISE AGAIN AT JANUARY, 1976
CONFERENCE. HE CLAIMS SDP WANTS BRITAIN TO CONTINUE TO RETAIN
ISLANDS BUT TO ALLOW SEYCHELLES' RIGHT TO EXPLOIT THEIR ECONOMIC/
TOURIST POTENTIAL MAINLY, HE SAID, SO THAT SEYCHELLES CAN
MAINTAIN LEVERAGE ON U.S./U.K. FOR ASSISTANCE.
MARSHALL

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DAR ES SALAAM
LONDON
PORT LOUIS
TANANARIVE
DET AFSCF MAHE ISLAND SEYCHELLES

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